FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

4 SEPTEMBER 1984

Lebanon

Syrian Contacts — President Amin al-Jumayyil met with his Syrian counterpart Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus on 3 September, according to Voice of Lebanon radio. The talks centered on problems with the security plan and with the situation in various parts of the country, the radio added. The summit meeting has not been reported by any monitored Lebanese or Syrian official sources, but Radio Free Lebanon cited a statement from the directorate general of the Lebanese President's Office on the meeting.

Meanwhile, PSP leader Minister Walid Junblatt traveled to Damascus on 2 September to hold talks with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Beirut radio reported. Junblatt returned to Damascus the next day with a representative of Amal movement leader Minister Nabih Birri in order to hold further talks with Khaddam, Radio Monte Carlo added.

Political Developments — Dr Elie Karami, deputy leader of the Phalange Party, is to fully undertake the responsibilities as leader of the party, following the death of former leader Pierre al-Jumayyil, according to a Phalange Party statement broadcast by the Voice of Lebanon on 31 August.

In a separate development, the joint liaison committee comprised of representatives from the Amal movement, Al-Murabitun, and the PSP agreed on 1 September to remove "armed parties" from the streets and to consolidate the unity of the three groups, according to a committee statement broadcast by the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio.

Saudi Embassy — Saudi Arabia has withdrawn its diplomats from Beirut to protest the recent attack on its embassy, Beirut radio reported. However, an "authoritative" Saudi Government source cited by SPA stated on 2 September that the envoys were withdrawn because of "unstable conditions" in the city and in order to "relieve" the Lebanese Government of a burden with which it might not be able to cope.

Security Situation — "Violent clashes" erupted in Tripoli on 3 September following the "assassination" of an Islamic Unification Movement leader, the voice of Lebanon reported. Meanwhile, shooting along the Beirut-Mountain lines on 2 September resulted in two dead and eight wounded, Beirut radio reported. In Al-Biqa' valley, four Syrian soldiers were killed following clashes between Syrian troops and forces of the Hezbollah organization, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon noted on 3 September.

Israeli Raid Results — More than 80 Fatah "cadres and fighters" were killed in the recent Israeli air attack in Al-Biqa' Valley, Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio reported. The attack was aimed at jails in which the Fatah members were being detained by the "traitor dissidents," the radio added. The radio questioned the lack of "serious resistance" to the planes by Syrian missile batteries and maintained that the "traitor dissidents and those who back and move them" are extending "free services" to the "Zionist enemy." A spokesman for the dissident faction denied that the group held any Fatah prisoners, terming the allegation as "lies, having no link with reality," AFP noted. The spokesman claimed that only 4 people were killed and 15 injured.

Saudi Arabia

Mecca Security — In a speech in Tripoli on 1 September broadcast by Tripoli radio, Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi disclosed that a number of Libyan pilgrims "have swept or want to sweep" the streets of Mecca and "take control" of the mosque and "seize" such places from Saudi security forces. There are some "extremists" who threatened to "take control" of Mecca and destroy it, he added. He appealed to these people to cooperate with the Saudi authorities. Although monitored Saudi sources have not been observed to report such disturbances, "official sources" cited by AFP noted that Prince Tallal, King Fahd's brother, "unexpectedly cut short" a visit to Turkey on 1 September after receiving an urgent request from the king to return to Saudi Arabia. Meanwhile, Tehran radio reported that a "great demonstration and procession" of more than 200,000 pilgrims took place in Mecca on 1 September.

Algerian President — Fahd received Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid on 3 September, SPA reported. Bendjedid arrived to perform the pilgrimage.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Hijacked Passengers — The passengers and crew of the recently hijacked Iranian airliner left Iraq on 4 September on board a plane chartered by the International Red Cross, INA reported. Three of the Iranian passengers and the two hijackers decided to remain in Iraq. The Iraqi regime "surrendered to the pressure" of public opinion and released the passengers on board the "commandeered" plane, IRNA noted citing an Iranian airlines announcement.

Siege of Iranian Ports — Iran has closed its oil terminal at Khark Island for repairs until 10 September, according to Gulf shipping sources cited by the 1 September issue of the Manama paper *GULF DAILY NEWS*. Referring to the siege of Khark Island and Iranian ports, Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz stated during a 3 September news conference in Paris reported by INA that the siege will continue as long as Iran "insists on pursuing war." In this regard, the Iraqi Navy commander stated that the Iraqi Navy had destroyed more than one-fourth of the Iranian Navy, including 170 vessels, according to INA citing the *BAGHDAD OBSERVER* paper. The Navy has also destroyed 70-80 percent of all "convoys" in the northern Gulf area, the commander added.

Musavi News Conference — During a 3 September news conference broadcast by Tehran radio, Iranian Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi stated that there is no possibility of a quick ending to the war, except for the downfall of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. He explained that the delay in military operations is a result of "tactical and battlefront interests," and that "diplomatic and political moves derive from the results achieved by the war."

Afghanistan

"A number" of people were killed and "some others" injured in a bombing at Kabul International Airport by "treacherous elements" on 31 August, Kabul radio reported citing BAKHTAR. According to Afghan resistance sources cited by KYODO, 42 people were killed in the explosion, including a Soviet diplomat. The airport bombing coincided with other bombings throughout the capital that killed an "unspecified" number of people, the agency added. The clandestine Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan radio claimed that the "successful and huge explosion" proved to the government that its "dangerous conspiracy" in the country will result in "bloodshed, fire, explosions, and shooting." The radio denounced the sending of Afghan youths to the "dens of corruption" in Moscow.

President Babrak Karmal visited the scene of the bombing on 2 September and met with a number of survivors of the "inhuman crime" carried out by "enemies of the April revolution," BAKHTAR reported. Karmal told the injured persons that Afghans will not forget this action by "counterrevolutionaries at the instigation of Ziaul Haq's military regime — this servant of U.S. imperialism."

In a separate development, Foreign Minister Shah Mohammad Dost returned from the UN-sponsored indirect talks in Geneva with Pakistan, BAKHTAR reported. The foreign minister participated in the talks in a "constructive and positive" manner, showing "reasonable flexibility," the agency added.

French Diplomacy

French President Francois Mitterrand ended 4 days of a "private stay" in Morocco on 2 September, Paris radio reported. Although presidential aides would not comment on the visit, which was "shrouded in mystery," the radio maintained that "secret diplomacy" concerned the Chad crisis. In a related development, French Defense Minister Charles Hernu returned to Paris on 3 September after a 24-hour visit to Chad, Ndjamena radio reported. Hernu was accompanied by Mitterand's chief of staff, and they both met with the Chadian defense minister, AFP noted. Hernu later held talks with the Chadian foreign minister, who is acting president, according to Ndjamena radio.

Meanwhile, French External Affairs Minister Claude Cheysson departed Tunisia on 1 September after meeting with Tunisian leaders President Habib Bourguiba, Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali, and Foreign Minister Beji Caid Essebsi, Tunis radio reported. Cheysson conveyed a message from Mitterrand to Bourguiba, the radio added. Cheysson delayed his departure in order to meet with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, according to diplomats cited by AFP. A day earlier, Cheysson had held talks with PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio noted. Upon his return to Paris, Cheysson received his Iraqi counterpart 'Aziz on 3 September at the end of the latter's short visit, INA reported.

Libya-Morocco Union

Morocco ratified the African Arab Federation treaty with Libya following an overwhelmingly affirmative vote in a national plebiscite on 31 August, Interior Minister Driss Basri announced at a news conference reported by Rabat radio. Meanwhile, the Libyan General People's Congress approved the treaty on 1 September following the unanimous acceptance by the basic people's conferences throughout the country, according to a congress resolution broadcast by Tripoli radio.

Israel

Following the 2 September meeting between the Alignment leader Shim'on Peres and the Likud leader Yitzhaq Shamir, there was a feeling that "only a miracle" could save the establishment of a national unity government, according to Jerusalem television. In remarks broadcast by the television, Peres stated that the two leaders discussed the "disputed issues," which constitute "weighty obstacles" to forming a unity government. During a meeting of the Likud ministers, Shamir "firmly denied" that there had been any agreement with Peres, the television added. The main problems in the discussions revolve around the settlements issue and the distribution of ministerial portfolios. If the next round of talks fail, there will be "no other choice" but to hold new elections, according to the television.

Jordan

Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat returned to Amman after a "private visit" to the USSR, Amman television reported.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 172 *4 September 1984*

AFGHANISTAN

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i
Reportage on 31 Aug Explosion at Kabul Airport ..... C 1
Counterrevolutionaries Blamed ..... C 1
Karmal Visits Injured, Airport ..... C 1
Resistance Claims Soviet Killed *[KYODO]* ..... C 1
Bombing Linked to Reagan, Zia ..... C 1
UN's Cordovez Denies Geneva Talks Failed *[AFP]* ..... C 2
Satisfied With Both Sides *[Karachi]* ..... C 2
Dost Welcomed on Return ..... C 3
Kabul on Operations Against Counterrevolutionaries ..... C 3
Gulbuddin, Rabbani Call for Unity Among Mujahidin *[Karachi DAWN 29 Aug]* ..... C 3
Karachi Reports Mujahidin Actions ..... C 4
Widespread 'Fierce Clashes' ..... C 4
Encirclement Continues in Paktia ..... C 4

BANGLADESH

AFP: Violent Clashes Mark 'Democracy Day' Rallies ..... D 1
Delhi Notes Begum Zia's Election Threat ..... D 1

INDIA

Gandhi, Assam Governor Discuss Electoral Rolls ..... E 1
Sikh Convention Adopts Nine Resolutions ..... E 1
AFP: Assembly Security Tight ..... E 1
President's Excommunication Initiated *[AFP]* ..... E 2
BBC on Sikh Convention ..... E 2
Sikhs To Meet 16 Sep *[AFP]* ..... E 2
Home Minister Asks Akali Dal for Commitments ..... E 3
Breakaway Party From Akali Dal To Be Formed ..... E 3
Curfew in Hyderabad; Situation Under Control ..... E 4
Venkataraman Sworn in as Vice President 31 Aug ..... E 4

OTHER COUNTRIES

PAKISTAN

India Report on Border Killings Called Baseless ..... G 1

SRI LANKA

Reportage on Incidents Near Point Pedro ..... G 1
Explosion Kills Four Policemen ..... G 1
Delhi: Police Kill 20 ..... G 1
Tamil Sources Confirm 7 Dead *[AFP]* ..... G 1
AFP: Officer Slain Outside Jaffna University ..... G 2

IRAN

Prime Minister's 3 Sep News Conference ..... I 1
Velayati Condemns International Bodies on Hijacking ..... I 2
Summons Foreign Diplomats ..... I 2

Iraq Releases Passengers, Crew ..... I 3
Friday Sermon Addresses Israeli UN Membership ..... I 3
Khomeyni to Council of Guardians on Clergy Role ..... I 4
AFP: Khark Island Reportedly Not Functioning ..... I 5
Armed Forces Joint Staff Issues Communiques ..... I 5
No 1,836 ..... I 5
No 1,837 ..... I 6
No 1,838 ..... I 6
No 1,839 ..... I 6
Pilgrims in Mecca Hold 'Great Demonstration' ..... I 6
Saudi Police Surround Libyan Pilgrims' Compounds ..... I 7
IRNA Reports Soviet Attacks on Afghan Town ..... I 7

Reportage on 31 Aug Explosion at Kabul Airport

Counterrevolutionaries Blamed

LD301618 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 31 Aug 84

[Text] The savage and criminal counterrevolutionaries again, by planting a bomb, caused the martyrdom of a number of our innocent children and mothers.

As a result of a bomb explosion this morning outside Kabul airport terminal, a number of children and women were killed and others were injured as they gathered to see their friends off.

The correspondent of BIA reports that this bomb was planted outside the airport terminal by elements treacherous to the homeland and people.

A spokesman of the security forces said that the case is under investigation.

Karmal Visits Injured, Airport

LD021746 Kabul BAKHTAR in Pashto 1245 GMT 2 Sep 84

[Excerpts] Kabul, 2 Sep (BAKHTAR) — This morning Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, visited our noble compatriots who are in the hospital of the Armed Forces' Medical Sciences Academy after being injured in the bomb blast incident at Kabul International Airport Terminal. He also visited the airport terminal itself which was damaged as a result of this inhuman crime by the enemies of the April revolution.

Babrak Karmal was accompanied by Lieutenant General 'Abdol Qader, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and minister of defense; Brigadier Mohammad Yasin Sadeqi, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and head of the Army Political Affairs Department; Mohammad Anwar Farzam, secretary of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium; and the commandant and a number of doctors from the Medical Sciences Academy of the Armed Forces. This morning at 1100 they visited the academy hospital expressing sympathy and kindness to the victims of the savage crimes of the revolution's enemies.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that during this visit Babrak Karmal greeted every one of the injured, asked about their condition, wished them recovery and good health, and instructed the doctors to make every effort for their speedy recovery.

Babrak Karmal expressed sympathy for the wounded, telling them: Revolutionary Afghans will not forget this action which is like hundreds of other plundering actions, terror, and intimidation by the black reaction. Revolutionary Afghans will not forget this inhumane, intimidating, and barbaric murder which was carried out at Kabul airport by the counterrevolutionaries at the instigation of Ziaul Haq's military regime — this servant of U.S. imperialism — which resulted in the martyrdom and injury of innocent children, women, and men.

Babrak Karmal added that the enemies of Afghans, the colonialists' sycophants and imperialists, should know that in order to maintain their freedom, peace, security, and progress, the true Afghan sons are not afraid of terror and intimidation by bloodsuckers and murderers and will firmly, strongly, and heroically follow the path they have chosen — the path of national and social liberation — to the final victory.

The correspondent of BAKHTAR adds that after visiting the hospital Babrak Karmal went to the Kabul international airport terminal. He was accompanied by Najibollah, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo; Zohur Razmjo, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee politburo and secretary of the Kabul city party committee; Lieutenant General 'Abdol Qader, minister of defense; Mohammad Yasin Sadeqi, head of Army political affairs; and the director and personnel of Kabul airport. Babrak Karmal inspected the terminal which was partly damaged as a result of intimidating actions by the enemies of the revolution.

Resistance Claims Soviet Killed

OW030905 Tokyo KYODO in English 0849 GMT 3 Sep 84

[Text] Islamabad, Sept. 3 KYODO — The number of people killed in the powerful bomb explosion at Kabul International Airport last Friday has increased to 42 including one Soviet diplomat, Afghan resistance sources said monday.

On the basis of fresh information received from the Afghan capital, these sources said Kabul was rocked with a series of bomb explosions coinciding with the airport blast. These explosions occurred in the Hotel Metropol, Sham Hotel and Ariana Cinema in which unspecified number of people were killed.

Resistance sources said the Soviet diplomat who died in the blast had gone to farewell a relative on a Tashkent-bound flight, when the bomb went off. His body was brought to the Soviet Embassy and dispatched to Moscow.

Bombing Linked to Reagan, Zia

LD031430 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 2 Sep 84

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Dear compatriots, as you know, the counterrevolutionaries, these mercenaries and servants of dollars and kaldars, committed another crime at Kabul International Airport. Yes, a civil airport is not a battlefield; it is Kabul International Airport, a place that is public property, that is mine and yours, and a place which, after mosques and other sacred places, in accordance with the sacred religion of Islam and other heavenly religions, is respected. This is the place from where the pilgrims fly to visit the house of God and to visit Karbala.

Genghis Khan, Hulegu, and Hitler, those lunatics of history, all had a pretext for killing. But these have no pretext for murder and crime; for them only money is the most important thing: dollars and kaldars.

Reagan packs bombs for Ziaul Haq from the Pentagon arsenal. Ziaul Haq then puts the bombs into the hands of his mercenary servants, who explode them inside our borders in public places, thus bringing blood and tears into the lives of our compatriots. It makes no difference to the bosses in the White House, who have no other business but to devour the world and to exploit the globe, what these fronts of death and destruction cause innocent people. They think of only one thing: to heighten tension at the price mankind's blood, to increase the dollars and pounds sterling no matter if it causes regional conflicts, killing of innocents, or the destruction of mankind. We know where these bombs have been made; we know those who encourage their slaves to sow the seeds of destruction and annihilation. And Washington has been recognized as the most important nucleus of international terrorism and conspiracy. Reagan is known as a professional murderer and the most notorious face in the world. There is no one in the world who does not know this artist of crime and destruction; everyone knows that the present world tension is his creation. We are watching these crimes and destruction of the capitalist order in its last breath. Experience has proved that engaging in war, crime, and sabotage is the activity of a sick, exploitative order, a weak order that has no great desire for an honorable life, but flails about in a vain, lunatic way, seeking its survival in blood and fire. However the blood of innocents shall not go unanswered.

Let the BBC say on the one hand that military men were killed in the event, while on the other hand the VOA and the BBC itself announce that those who were killed were children and women. The contradiction in the words of this criminal [as heard], these enemies of mankind, once again exposes the weakness of the drowning West. We are advancing toward the future, toward a noble and just social order, toward the light of prosperity. The blood of innocent martyrs will give birth to the flowers of prosperity and shall decorate our mountains and valleys. This bloodshed makes us increasingly determined and resolute in crushing and annihilating the enemies of mankind.

The planting of bombs by the criminal servants of Reagan and Ziaul Haq outside Kabul International Airport, which caused the injury and martyrdom of a number of our compatriots, has provoked the indignation and hatred of the majority forces of our people. Kabul radio and television have received thousands of letters condemning this sorrowful incident.

UN's Cordovez Denies Geneva Talks Failed

NC311302 Paris AFP in English 1246 GMT 31 Aug 84

[Excerpt] Geneva, Aug 31 (AFP) — United Nations mediator Diego Cordovez today denied reports that the third round of indirect talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan, which ended here yesterday, had been a failure.

The UN deputy secretary for political affairs told a press conference that both Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Ali Khan and his Afghan counterpart Shah Mohammad Dost had told him they were "very satisfied" with the outcome.

Mr Cordovez said he had shuttled between the two ministers, who will not meet because Pakistan does not recognise the Soviet-backed government in Kabul, between five and seven times a day during the talks, which began Monday. He said the next round of talks would probably be held here in February.

He would not give further details on this week's discussions, although observers here said none of the fundamental problems had been resolved.

The discussions are part of a United Nations effort to secure the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and to resolve the situation of Afghan refugees who have fled into Pakistan.

Mr Cordovez gave no indication of the effect Afghan bombardments of Pakistani territory had on the indirect talks.

Satisfied With Both Sides

BK011258 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 31 Aug 84

[Excerpt] The UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Mr Diego Cordovez, has said, on his part, he is quite satisfied at the progress made in the just-concluded third round of indirect talks on Afghanistan in Geneva. He is also satisfied with the approach of the two sides to the whole question. Both sides wanted to bring about the settlement of Afghan question.

The two sides [words indistinct] the next round examine the instruments and texts handed to them. Mr Cordovez said the kind of very serious and complicated issues that were contained in these documents could not be decided during the third round because of paucity of time. These needed handling at the level of government experts and also a certain amount of time must be left before the parties to a dispute examined new papers and came back to the negotiating table.

Mr Cordovez said that it would be true to say that the instruments and text given to the two delegations for examination for the next round would facilitate the implementation of overall agreement (?if and when) arrived at. He did not divulge the nature and contents of the documents but informed sources in Geneva said these related to the status of draft package. The text, these sources said, pertains to the four essential elements of the agreement — time frame for the withdrawal of troops, mutual guarantees for noninterference and nonintervention, international guarantees, and voluntary return of refugees. The sources also said that discussions on the basis of the text conveyed by Mr Cordovez have had to clarify the positions of the interlocutors on the package. These sources further said that during the course of these negotiations, Pakistan insisted on making (?progress) on all the four essential elements contained in the draft package of the settlement.

Mr Cordovez expressed the optimism that an action on these papers would [word indistinct] the progress and [word indistinct] to a more substantive phase toward a settlement. Mr Cordovez said that Pakistan Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and Kabul regime's Foreign Minister Mr Shah Mohammad Dost had told him sincerely that they were satisfied with the discussions and they felt that the progress has been made during these discussions. Both were also very eager to continue this process.

Mr Cordovez said that yesterday evening he briefed the permanent representative of Iran in Geneva, Dr Nasrollah Kazem Kamyab on the discussions of the third round. A spokesman for the Pakistan delegation said today that the Pakistan foreign secretary, Mr Niaz A. Naik, accompanied by Pakistan's permanent representative in Geneva, Mr Mansoor Ahmad, called on Dr Kamyab this morning and briefed him on the negotiations that took place during the indirect talks.

Dost Welcomed on Return

LD031502 Kabul BAKHTAR in Pashto 1245 GMT 3 Sep 84

[Text] Kabul, 3 Sep (BAKHTAR) — Foreign Minister Shah Mohammad Dost, who had gone to Geneva for the continuation of talks with the Pakistani foreign minister to seek a political settlement to the situation around Afghanistan, returned home this morning.

Shah Mohammad Dost and his party were welcomed at Kabul International Airport by Mohammad Khan Jalalar, minister of commerce; Sakhi Daneshjo, deputy minister at the Foreign Ministry; a number of high-ranking officials of that ministry; and Fikryat Akhmedzhanovich Tabeyev, ambassador extraordinary of the Soviet Union in Kabul.

In the latest rounds of talks between the delegations of the DRA and Pakistan, which took place in two adjacent rooms through the efforts ofthe UN Secretary General's representative, Diego Cordovez, fundamental issues regarding the political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan were discussed.

The DRA delegation led by the foreign minister took part in these talks in a constructive and positive manner, showing reasonable flexibility.

Both sides agreed to continue these talks in the near future.

Kabul on Operations Against Counterrevolutionaries

LD031702 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Sep 84

[Text] The country's militant security forces are daily inflicting deadly and crushing blows on the counterrevolutionaries, those murderous and barbaric elements.

These blows are forcing them to make last-ditch efforts to murder our innocent compatriots and to blow up buses, mosques, bridges and other public institutions.

In return, the vigilant security forces of the country are crushing these traitorous elements in order to cleanse the villages and hamlets of the country of their foul existence and to maintain security.

A source of Vardak Province's security force reports to BAKHTAR Information Agency that as a result of successful operations by the security forces in Vardak Province 554 of the counterrevolutionary elements were crushed.

The security forces seized from these murderers 12 DShK's, 6 mortars, 8 ZK-1's, 2 recoilless guns, 13 rocket-launchers, 40 hand grenades, 43,000 DShK rounds, 350 shells for recoilless guns, 24,555 rounds for rocket-launchers, 60 mortar shells, 65,000 rounds of assorted ammunition, 180 antitank and antipersonnel mines, 270 kgs of explosives, 970 meters of detonator wire, 120 detonators, 105 electrical detonators and 1 medicine cache. In addition, as a result of these operations 9 DShK's, 2 ZK-1's, 50 hide-outs and 2 arm stores of the enemy were destroyed.

According to another report, as a result of successful operations by the vigilant security forces in the Sar Band area, Sarowbi district, a number of counterrevolutionary elements belonging to the Mahaz-e Milli band, including the leader, Wali Karokheylu, were crushed. The security forces seized 6 ground-to-ground missiles, 380 kgs of explosives, 58 boxes of DShK rounds, 11 rocket-launcher rounds, 500 rounds for 303 caliber rifles, one ground-to-ground rocket-launcher and a number of antistate leaflets and documents showing their links with abroad.

Gulbuddin, Rabbani Call for Unity Among Mujahidin

GF011330 Karachi DAWN in English 29 Aug 84 p 2

[Text] Peshawar, Aug 28 — Two Afghan leaders, Engineer Gulbuddin Hikmatyar of Hezb-i-Islami and Prof. Burhaniddin Rabbani of the Jama'at-e Islami-i-Afghanistan, now part of the seven-party Afghan alliance, in a joint press conference here on Monday called for greater unity and cooperation among Afghan freedom fighters belonging to different mujahidin groups. They said it was the pressing need of the hour in view of the severe attacks on mujahidin of late.

The two leaders admitted some setbacks in certain areas in Afghanistan, including Zabol, Logar, Herat, Ghazni and Qonduz, but attributed them to shortage of food due to large-scale destruction of food storages by foreign troops.

These leaders denied that mujahidin commander Ahmed Shah Mas'ud had been captured by Afghan Government troops and had been shown on Kabul television.

They also denied that bombing and shelling in Kurram agency was the result of hot pursuit of mujahidin by Karmal and foreign troops, and added that the Alikhel cantonment across the border on this point was still by under siege the freedom fighters. [sentence as published]

The mujahidin leaders strongly condemned the bombing and shelling of unarmed civilian populations.

About shifting of their offices from Peshawar city, the two leaders said they did not want to create difficulties for provincial authorities and had therefore agreed to shift their offices, apart from those dealing with health care and public information. They said they would soon be shifting from the congested areas.

For unmarried Afghan nationals who have been asked to shift from Peshawar, the two leaders demanded suitable alternative residential arrangements.

While denying any hand in the Aeroflot blast incident in Karachi, they accepted responsibility for a recent action in Bonn, West Germany.

Karachi Reports Mujahidin Actions

Widespread 'Fierce Clashes'

BK020918 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 2 Sep 84

[Text] There are reports of fierce clashes between Afghan mujahidin and the Soviet-Karmal forces in Jowzjan, Samangan, Bamian, and Nimruz Provinces of Afghanistan. The clashes coincided with the forcible military draft campaign launched by the Karmal forces in Afghanistan. According to news agency reports, 200 youths were arrested in Jowzjan Province because they had refused to join the Karmal forces.

Other reports said the mujahidin tried to blow up a gas pipeline near Mazar-E-Sharif in Balkh Province and a gasoline and diesel pipeline near Qila Shahi in Samangan Province. As a result of the blast, production at a fertilizer factory at Mazar-E-Sharif has been badly affected.

Encirclement Continues in Paktia

BK031602 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Sep 84

[Text] According to reports received from Afghanistan, despite joint ground and air action, the Soviet-Karmal troops have failed to break the mujahidin's encirclement of Zazi cantonment in Paktia Province. The mujahidin have encircled the region since May of this year. The reports say that in a serious clash on the 13th of last month the mujahidin destroyed eight tanks and killed 40 Soviet-Karmal troops.

AFP: Violent Clashes Mark 'Democracy Day' Rallies

BK311011 Hong Kong AFP in English 0956 GMT 31 Aug 84

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 31 (AFP) — A series of violent clashes marked government-sponsored "Democracy Day" rallies yesterday throughout Bangladesh, newspapers and police reported today.

The rallies were called to show that military ruler General Hussain Mohammad Ershad and the government-backed Janadal Party had wide public support, observers said.

They were also to redress some of the political balance following a successful half-day strike organised by the country's two major political alliances on Monday, they said.

The Bengali daily *DAINIK BANGLA* said 50 people were wounded and 10 others arrested in clashes between Janadal workers and rival opposition supporters in northeastern Sylhet town.

Police fired rubber bullets and tear gas to disperse rival political factions who fought running battles for more than three hours. Land Administration Minister Abdul Haq finally abandoned the meeting.

There were similar incidents in northern Kishoreganj town where again police fired in the air to separate fighting gangs. But rivals there were all members of the Janadal Party, police said. Education Minister Shamsul Huda Chowdhury abandoned plans to address the rally.

The daily paper *ITTEFAQ* reported that the rostrum of a Janadal meeting in Manikganj town near Dhaka was dismantled by opposition supporters. Police helped to put it back up. Agriculture Minister Abdul Halim Chowdhury was speaker at the meeting.

General Ershad told his public rally in northern Duinajpur district that the opposition alliances — the Awami League-led 15 party alliance and BNP [Bangladesh National Party]-led seven party alliances — were trying to "create choas and indiscipline" in society.

Meanwhile, Dhaka Radio today said the president had pledged his government to holding free, fair and impartial elections before the end of the year.

The opposition has been demanding an end to martial law before the elections take place, a ban on civil servants and ministers standing and a neutral government to oversee the polls.

Prime Minister Ataur Rahman Khan at a rally in the port city of Chittagong urged opposition parties to participate in the elections.

Delhi Notes Begum Zia's Election Threat

BK021558 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Sep 84

[Text] The chairperson of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, Mrs Khalida Zia, has announced that her party will not participate in the ensuing general election if the 5-point charter of demand is not accepted by the military government. She was addressing her party workers in Dhaka yesterday.

Meanwhile, about 1,000 journalists and press workers demonstrated today in Dhaka to demand lifting of 3 month-old ban on the opposition Bengali language daily *DAINIK DESH*.

Gandhi, Assam Governor Discuss Electoral Rolls
BK011619 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Sep 84

[Text] The Assam chief minister, Mr Hitshwar Saikia, met the prime minister in New Delhi today. He discussed the revision of electoral rolls in the state. He told Mrs Gandhi that he favors the updating and revising the 1979 electoral rolls for the forthcoming general elections in the country.

Sikh Convention Adopts Nine Resolutions
BK020914 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 2 Sep 84

[Text] A Sikh convention convened by five head priests in Amritsar today asked the government to withdraw security forces from the Golden Temple complex. It demanded kar sewa [voluntary community service] should be entrusted to Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak [Sikh temple management] Committee.

A resolution read out by Giani Sahib Singh, head priest of Golden Temple, was adopted at Gurdwara Sahida, the venue of the convention in Amritsar. In all nine resolutions were adopted. Among other things they demanded permission for Sikhs living abroad to visit the Sikh shrines in India.

The resolution condemned the Army action in the Golden Temple complex and damage to Akal Takht [highest seat of the Sikhs] and Darshan Deori [worship place]. It demanded a high level inquiry into the incidents during the Army operations.

The convention criticized the alleged repressive measures against Sikh youths.

The conventioni began amidst tight security arrangements. The administration has taken steps to meet any eventuality. There is no report of any untoward incident.

AFP: Assembly Security Tight
BK020802 Hong Kong AFP in English 0747 GMT 2 Sep 84

[Text] Amritsar, India, Sept 2 (AFP) — The Sikh world convention began here today under a tight security web with separatist delegates demanding secession from the Indian union and formation of an independent Sikh nation, convention sources said.

No incidents were reported as the assembly got underway mid-morning, attended by over 160,000 delegates, according to organisers.

The government had banned the public holding of the convention on the grounds that it might lead to violence, but a spokesman in Delhi yesterday stressed that it had not denied permission for gatherings within Sikh temple premises.

A government spokesman today told reporters that an unspecified number of members of the banned All India Sikh Students Federation had managed to break through the police dragnet and gain entry to the convention venue — a Sikh temple in the southern district of this holy city.

In full view of the Indian security forces, delegates marched through the streets bearing slogans demanding "Khalistan" or the land of pure, the country a section of India's 12 million Sikhs, two per cent the population, want to set up in Punjab state.

Heavy rains, which began hours before the convention opened, failed to quench the fervour of the delegates, who chanted "Raj Kare Khalsa" — Sikh rule — in near frenzy.

Some carried slogans proclaiming the late Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, a hardline Sikh fundamentalist killed in the Army assault on the Golden Temple, a martyr. The Army attacked the ancient complex on June 6 to flush out militants.

The administration was concerned at the presence of the federation members, whom it considers hard core miltants. The federation outlawed earlier this year claims a membership of 40,000. Its president, Bhai Amrik Singh, was among the 650 people killed during the Golden Temple action.

Gurdev Singh, the convention spokesman, told reporters that 162,000 delegates, including 38 from the United States, Canada, Kenya and Malaysia had registered their attendance.

Police refused to comment on the strength, but officials said the venue could only hold between 40,000 to 75,000 people.

The convention is the first of its kind to be held since 1920. A majority of Sikhs in Punjab do not consider the August convention organised by the Sikh holy man Baba Santa Singh official. They say it was backed by the government.

Today's assembly, called by the top five Sikh priests to discuss the "grave threat" their religion is allegedly facing, was declared open by Kirpal Singh, the 66-year-old chief priest of the Golden Temple.

It began with discourses by the Sikh holy men after the ending of a 48-hour non-stop recitation of hymns from the Sikh holy book.

Mr. Kirpal Singh, who survived the assault on the temple, said the convention should only discuss religious matters. "It is not a political forum ... the need of the hour is unity," he said.

But federation members said they would insist on putting forward a resolution urging Sikhs to resume their campaign with the sole aim of creating a separate Sikh nation, convention sources said.

Yesterday, the federation members called out pro-Khalistan slogans at an evening congregation, and these were backed by a large section of the delegates, who were mostly peasants from rural Punjab, eyewitnesses said. It is, however, unlikely that the resolution demanding a separate Sikh nation will be formally proposed at the convention, due to end late tonight, as it could bring the convention organisers into trouble with the authorities, convention sources said.

A government spokesman told reporters last night in Chandigarh that the administration would not tolerate any "any national" activities and reiterated that law and order would be maintained at "all cost."

One resolution proposed at the convention concerns the "Threat to Sikhism, the world's youngest religion."

Other resolutions demand the Army's immediate [retreat] from the Golden Temple, handing over of the shrine to the Sikh temple committee, the release of over 5,000 prisoners and a halt to government-supported repairs to the temple.

Meanwhile, Army units backed by paramilitary forces maintained a strict vigil arund the convention venue. Troops wielding light machine guns were seen positioned behind sand bag emplacements and paramilitary troops patrolled the city.

Amritsar appeared normal, though shops were closed as usual on a Sunday.

President's Excommunication Initiated

BK021036 Hong Kong AFP in English 1018 GMT 2 Sep 84

[Text] Amritsar, India, Sept 2 (AFP) -- The Sikh world convention here today took the first step to excommunicating Indian President Zail Singh and a federal Cabinet minister, both Sikhs, and heard calls for the secession of Sikh-dominated Punjab.

The five high priests of Sikhism, who called the gathering, said they would personally lead a mass march on October 1 to "liberate," the Golden Temple here from the Indian Army, which has occupied it since June 6. Troops stormed the holiest of the Sikh shrines to flush out militants who had turned it into a military stronghold. At least 630 people died in the attack.

Delegates shouted slogans calling for an independent Sikh state and insisted that the demand be made a convention resolution. But the high priests turned down the idea saying "this is not the forum" (for that).

The Sikh convention also declared Mr. Zail Singh and Buta Singh, minister for parliamentary affairs and works, housing and supply, as "tankhaiyas" — offenders against Sikhism. Sikh souces said this was the first step towards excommunicating them, requiring them to appear before the religious authorities and make amends for their alleged actions against the faith.

BBC on Sikh Convention

BK030128 London BBC World Service in English 0013 GMT 3 Aug 84

[Text] The thousands of Sikhs (?who had) been airing their grievances against the Indian Government in Amritsar in the Punjab, had defied a security cordon around the city designed to prevent the gathering from taking place. The convention headed by the five priests of the Sikh religion passed resolutions (?seriously) critical of the government. As our Delhi correspondent Mark Tully reports, one resolution proposed strong action against the president of India and a minister of Mrs Gandhi's cabinet.

[Begin Tully — live or recorded] The head priest of the Golden Temple summoned the president of India, Zail Singh, and Mrs Gandhi's parliamentary affairs minister, Mr Buta Singh, to come before the high priest of the Akal Takht — the Sikh's highest religious office — and offer penance. Until then, the priest said, the two men will be regarded as excommunicated. The priests charged the president with ordering the Army to enter the Golden Temple 3 months ago. Mrs Gandhi's parliamentary affairs minister, who has negotiated for the government, is however responsible for going back on his word to withdraw the Army from the temple complex. The priests said they would lead a march to free the temple at the end of this month if the Army was not withdrawn. A small section of the crowd demanded that they march immediately and shouted Khalistan slogans, disrupting the meeting for more than 1/2 an hour.

Another highly controversial resolution passed by the convention praised the Sikh soldiers who mutinied after the action in the Golden Temple. The resolution said that they protested against the brutal Army action.

Sikhs To Meet 16 Sep

BK030835 Hong Kong AFP in English 0807 GMT 3 Sep 84

[Text] Amritsar, India, Sept 3 (AFP) — The Sikh autonomy campaign received a fresh boost at the world Sikh convention yesterday as increasing support developed for the idea of a separate Sikh nation, several observers said today.

The Sikhs were called a nation in the nine resolutions approved at the convention, according to the official English translation, observers noted.

The convention held in this 400-year-old holy city was seen here as the first stage for a resumption of the autonomy campaign, which began in early 1980, picked up in August 1982 and reached its peak early this year, halted with the June Army clampdown in Punjab state.

The convention rejected, though not formally, a federal government offer to resume talks. Federal Interior Minister Narasimha Rao made the offer on the eve of the assembly, which was held in a Sikh shrine after the government refused permission for it to be held publicly.

The two Sikh priests who called the convention said today they would meet all Sikh leaders here on September 16 to discuss how to free their holiest shrine, the Golden Temple, from the presence of the Army, which assaulted the temple on June 6 to root out Sikh militants.

A Sikh spokesman told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE today that the leaders would meet again on September 30 to give final shape to their proposed march to the temple if the Army had not withdrawn by then.

"The idea is to keep the Sikhs in a perepetual state of tension, measure the government reaction and restart the campaign".

A government official here told AFP the ultimatum announced and endorsed at the convention yesterday was more serious as the priests had said they would lead the march themselves.

"This time it appears they (Sikhs) mean business. We are now left with two options — vacate the Golden Temple before the deadline or impose strict ban and curfew on the entire Punjab", the official, who asked not to be named, said.

"The priests have touched the most sensitive nerve of the Sikhs (by asking them to join the march) and the call appears religious on the surface", he said.

A Sikh source who has access to the top five priests told AFP that from now on the priests would stay inside the Sikh temple to avoid any possible attempt to arrest them.

"What form the campaign will now take will depend on the government handling of the situation and the response of the Sikh masses," a Sikh source said.

"An average Sikh is convinced today that he will have to join in the struggle and he has started slowly believing what a small group of Sikhs were demanding two years back (separate nation) is just," he added.

Yesterday's events at the convention confirm his statement. A majority of the delegates, mostly peasants from rural Punjab, raised their hands in support of a call to found "Khalistan," a Sikh nation, eyewitnesses reported.

The call for Khalistan was first raised by about 2,000 youths, all members of the hardline outlawed Sikh students federation. But as the convention proceedings progressed, the majority joined in.

"Two years back it was just a concept but the Army action and the ban imposed on the convention and Hindu actions against Sikhs in Haryana (a Hindu-dominated state adjacent to Punjab) have led the Sikhs to believe that they should support it," the (?Sikh) source said.

A government official disagreed. He maintained that only a small group of people had called for Khalistan but he admitted that if steps were not taken immediately the concept would take increasing root in Sikh minds.

"Though the priests have said time and again that they will not indulge in politics it was clear from yesterday's happenings that they are playing with the Sikh sentiment and the Sikhs' psyche and they know very well that they control the Sikh masses. They will never defy the priests" he said.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Indira Gandhi has once again defended the Army action in Punjab, which she said was chiefly prompted by the Sikh militants storing of a "vast arsenal," including sophisticated foreign-made weapons, in the Golden Temple complex.

She expressed sympathy for the Sikhs'grief at the attack, which seriously damaged parts of the complex. But stressed that "This should not cloud the dangers to the unity and integrity of our country."

She made the remarks in a letter, a copy of which was released to the press here today.

Home Minister Asks Akali Dal for Commitments

BK010932 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 1 Sep 84

[Text] The home minister has asked the Akali Dal to accept certain commitments and obligations as a basis for a settlement of the Punjab problem through negotiations. Mr Narasimha Rao said in a statement that the Akali Dal should denounce in unambiguous terms secessionism in any form. It should agree that gurdwaras [Sikh temples] will not be used for political purposes. It should undertake that places of worship will not be allowed to store arms or to harbor persons wanted by the law and order authorities. It should condemn all forms of terrorism and violence including sabotage, the hijacking of planes, arson, and looting. The home minister said it is for the Akali Dal to assure the nation of their agreement to these points in the larger interests of Punjab and the country.

Mr Narasimha Rao noted that the question of resuming negotiations with the Akali Dal is being raised. He pointed out that the government stand has always been to have talks to find a lasting settlement of disputes through the democratic process of negotiations. It was in this spirit that the government had continued the dialogue with the Akali Dal representatives. This was despite the fact that the Akali Dal had persisted with programs of bundh and morchas [strikes and agitation]. The home minister said that during all these negotiations, the government had warned the Akali Dal about the growing violence and danger of terrorism. It had informed them that any settlement should also involve an unequivocal commitment on the part of the Akali Dal and the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak [Sikh temple management] Committee that places of worship will not be allowed to store arms and to harbor persons wanted by the law and order authorities. Mr Narasimha Rao said that no settlement can be a one-sided process. It has also to be on the basis of certain commitments and obligations by the Akali Dal representatives in the overall national interest.

Breakaway Party From Akali Dal To Be Formed

BK011606 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Sep 84

[Text] In Punjab, some prominent Akali Dal leaders have decided to form a new party called Akali Dal Phiruman. The former Akali Dal general secretary, Mahant Sewadas Singh, said in Chandigarh today that the new party will seek to find a peaceful and negotiated solution of all Punjab problems and work for the promotion of Hindu-Sikh unity.

Curfew in Hyderabad; Situation Under Control

BK040310 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 4 Sep 84

[Text] In Hyderabad, curfew has been imposed from 0700 this morning for 24 hours in 24 police station areas. This follows incidents of looting and arson during a religious procession last night in which four persons were stabbed. Police opened fire in which 1 person was injured; 18 police personnel were injured in the incident. The police commissioner, Mr R. Prabhakar Rao, told our correspondent that curfew has been imposed as a precautionary measure. The situation is under control.

Venkataraman Sworn in as Vice President 31 Aug

BK311028 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 31 Aug 84

[Excerpt] Mr R. Venkataraman was today sworn in as vice president of India. The president, Giani Zail Singh, administered the oath of office to him at a ceremony in the Ashoka Hall of the Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House].

Mr Venkataraman succeeds Mr Hidayatullah, who laid down his office yesterday on completion of his 5-year term.

The swearing-in ceremony was attended, among others, by the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, her Cabinet colleagues, and the three service chiefs. Mr Hidayatullah was also present.

Mr Venkataraman was elected vice president on the 22d of this month by defeating his only rival, Mr B.C. Kamble, put up by most of the opposition parties.

PAKISTAN

India Report on Border Killings Called Baseless

BK311606 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 31 Aug 84

[Text] An official spokesman in Rawalpindi today categorically rejected a PRESS TRUST OF INDIA report on the loss of lives suffered by the Pakistani forces along the line of control in Kashmir and described it as totally baseless. The spokesman added that as there were no clashes during the days about which the agency carried the report, the question of any loss of life does not arise.

SRI LANKA

Reportage on Incidents Near Point Pedro

Explosion Kills Four Policemen

BK021322 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 2 Sep 84

[Text] Four policemen were killed and three others seriously injured when a lorry in which they were traveling was hit by an explosive device at Tikkam in the Point Pedro area yesterday.

The minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, told a news conference this afternoon that the incident occurred while some task force policemen were proceeding to a police post in a lorry and two jeeps [words indistinct]. He said that when the bomb hit the lorry, the policemen in the two jeeps dismounted immediately and fired in the direction from where the device had been set off. The minister said that the casualties on the side of the terrorists were not known, but no terrorists were arrested.

He also said the authorities have received reports that following these incidents some shops were burnt in Point Pedro, including a CWE [expansion unknown] retail shop. The authorities have also some information about the killings of some civilians, but they were all unconfirmed reports. Mr Athulathmudali pointed out that the inspector general of police [IGP] had rushed to Point Pedro this morning to investigate into these allegations. He added that once he received the report of the IGP, he would release it to the media.

According to the latest reports, the situation at Point Pedro is now under control. The minister disclosed that following the Mannar incident, 23 Army personnel were confined to barracks. Inquiries were now being conducted, and once they were completed severe disciplinary action would be taken against anyone found guilty.

Delhi: Police Kill 20

BK020850 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 2 Sep 84

[Text] In Sri Lanka, at least 20 civilians were killed and about 2,000 left their homes as police commando units went into action yesterday near Point Pedro. According to agency reports the police action came after six of their colleagues were killed in an ambush at Tikkam. Reports from Jaffna said that the policemen set shops and civilian homes ablaze. The new wave of violence shattered more than a week of lull in the fighting. Security forces are reported to have foiled another extremist attempt at (Mandikhai).

Meanwhile, the TULF leader, Mr Amirthalingam, got in touch with the Sri Lanka president, Mr J.R. Jayewardene.

Tamil Sources Confirm 7 Dead

BK030819 Hong Kong AFP in English 0751 GMT 3 Sep 84

[Text] Colombo, Sept 3 (AFP) — Tamil separatists today said that seven civilians were confirmed dead in a reported police attack on the northern Sri Lankan town of Point Pedro.

Separatists sources in India had said 20 died in an attack on Saturday on the town in the Tamil-dominated north where militant Tamils are waging a campaign for a separate state.

R. Sampanthan, a Politburo member of the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), the main Tamil party, told AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE today that seven people were "definitely" killed in Point Pedro on Saturday.

"It is believed that more people died inthe rural areas. But we have no confirmation so far," he added.

The alleged incident followed reports of four police killed and 10 wounded in an explosion set off in the village of Tikkam by suspected militants.

The TULF today said that six shops were set on fire in Point PEDRO yesterday after police investigators from Colombo left the area. Officials could not confirm the figure.

The TULF had said that 24 shops were burned down on Saturday. National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali yesterday said that "some shops" were burnt.

Police Chief Rudra Rajasingham, who flew to the north to inquire into the Point Pedro situation, told AFP he would report to the National Security Council today.

He also said he would give his findings to President Junius Jayewardene but declined to disclose casuality figures.

Mr Athulathmudali, a lawyer, said yesterday that action would be taken against those guilty of the killing and arson in Point Pedro if evidence was available but that finding evidence that would stand up in court was a major problem.

AFP: Officer Slain Outside Jaffna University
BK041055 Hong Kong AFP in English 1023 GMT 4 Sep 84

[Text] Colombo, Sept 4 (AFP) — Suspected Tamil separatists shot an intelligence officer whose body was reportedly found tied to a lamp-post today outside Jaffna University, informed sources said here. A note by the body said the dead man was an Army second lieutenant who had masqueraded last year as a Tamil in a refugee camp, a reliable source in Jaffna said.

Meanwhile, the Defence Ministry said a gun, nearly 500 detonators and some 250 bullets were found in a boat which the Navy captured off the north coast yesterday after killing eight separatists.

Some 25 members of the security forces have been killed in northern Sri Lanka in the last month by Tamils fighting for independence for the north and east of the country, observers say. Separatists yesterday said seven civilians had been killed by police in Point Pedro near here on Saturday.

Nearly 400 people died in riots in July last year involving Tamils and Sri Lanka's majority Sinhalese community.

Prime Minister's 3 Sep News Conference

LD031724 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Sep 84

[News conference held in Tehran on 3 September by Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi for foreign and local correspondents — recorded. Questions posed in English and not translated into Persian are printed in italics]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I have a recommendation for the foreign reporters. It is a recommendation that when we meet in our revolutionary country they tell the truth and be impartial. In our country it makes no difference what political or social position a person holds, we consider it the duty of all nations to recommend telling the truth and not distort facts when meeting each other. The duty placed on correspondents of the world's media in this respect is greater. Since its inception, great effort has been made throughout the world to misrepresent the Islamic Revolution. Despite that, the Islamic Revolution has exhibited its strength and the purity of its goals. Naturally, the mass media affiliated with the big powers had no hand in [showing] this; they tried to prevent the light from seeping through small apertures. We hope, as in the past, there are some reporters who will tell the world what they really see, and not be influenced by the wishes of those in power. That was my introduction to this conference; I am now ready to answer questions.

[First unidentified reporter] *There is some speculation about the prime minister's dismissal, in the world media, such as [words indistinct] their incapability of doing governmental work [words indistinct] expression of Majlis dissatisfaction with the prime minister. But do you think these are (?reasons) for the prime minister's dismissal?*

[Musavi] The matter is very simple. We have a new Majlis. Naturally, this Majlis has some differences with the previous Majlis concerning whether it accepts a director [modir] in the course of its work, or objects to one. We interpret this action of the Majlis along those lines. Of course, the world mass media tried to interpret this matter and the vote of no-confidence given to five ministers as a clash between political factions in our country. But the truth of the matter is, if you note what happened in the Majlis — the discussions that took place and the list of names of the ministers presented — you would see that the Majlis action was far removed from these calculations and vain hopes of the big powers, who hope to find rifts and dissatisfaction behind every incident in our country. This matter should, in my opinion, be interpreted this way.

[Unidentified Yugoslav news agency correspondent] *Your Excellency, a previous question about the Iran-Iraq war coincides with mine. I would only (?co-ordinate) with it. What are the possibilities of counting on a speedy end to the war?*

[Translator] He asks: What are the possibilities for a very quick ending to the war?

[Musavi] We do not see any possibility, except the downfall of Saddam Husayn.

[Unidentified XINHUA correspondent] *Your government has recently, newly established a Ministry of Information. Would you like telling me some [word indistinct] if all the intelligence work formerly under various government institutions [words indistinct] are from now on taken over under this new ministry?*

[Musavi] Since its recent inception, the new ministry has been coordinating with all the various intelligence bodies and bringing them together: That is one of the aims of the establishment of the Ministry of Information. Until now, intelligence about our country, domestic and foreign, internal security, and counter-espionage were all separate. The duty of the Ministry of Information is to compile and coordinate the various intelligence units. [Second unidentified correspondent] *Is the [word indistinct] to the private sector increase due to the plan to open or reopen share market in Tehran?*

[Musavi] To begin with, the question of a stock exchange, to which you refer, has been left generally inactive in our system; it has been suspended. However, this does not mean that it does not exist. We believe that with the expansion of investments by the private sector this market would re-emerge, but based on Islamic standards. The government must take care lest artificial price fluctuations in the stock exchange lead to the amassing of money by some middlemen. Also, care should be taken to see that this would help the country's economic improvement.

[Question] Vatankhah, from *JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI*: In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Mr Prime minister, the operations by Islamic combatants on the battlefronts have been delayed for some time. The enemies of the Islamic Revolution allege that the reason behind this is due to diplomatic moves to end the war. As the head of the government as well as a member of the Supreme Defense Council, how do you interpret this and how do you respond?

[Musavi] The delay in the [word indistinct] operations is simply due to tactical and battlefront interests. It has absolutely nothing to do with any change in methods and policies of the Islamic Republic. We consider any diplomatic moves to be the outcome of our powerful military operations on the battlefronts. In fact, diplomatic and political moves derive from the results achieved by the war through self-sacrifices by our dear combatants. Consequently, one should not separate this issue. As a result, this interpretation of the delay in our forces' offensive is not a correct one.

[Third reporter] *SOBH-E AZADEGAN*: In the name of God, what is the state of negotiations held with the West Germany? Are the economic relations between Iran and Germany to lead to a barter agreement or not?

[Musavi] We do not have any particular negotiations, independent of other countries, with Germany. Obviously, we are one of the customers of German goods, with the volume of our trade being very high. There are numerous reasons for this. As to the question of whether the present negotiations would lead to a barter transactions, this is a question which ought to be answered thus: We have barter and nonbarter transactions with all countries. The same thing applies to Germany.

[Fourth unidentified reporter] What happened to the fate of the three ministers without portfolio? Are they to keep their posts as ministers or are they to become deputies?

[Musavi] Extensive consultations are in progress at present, both in connection with the esteemed Guardian Council and the right honorable president. As has been suggested to the government, the government, after its summer break, is to submit a bill to the Majlis. Meanwhile, a draft is being debated in the Majlis. At any rate, it is the Majlis which will have to make a decision about the three posts.

[Fifth unidentified reporter] *I have two questions. You have answered the next question, but I want to ask you in a different way. In a short spell of time, there have been some cases of hijacking in Iran. What are the reasons for such acts, considering the denial of the hijackers to be members of political groups? Don't you think such an action is the (?reason) for dissatisfaction amongst your people?*

[Musavi] I start by recalling the final part of your question. If hijacking were to be considered as a sign of dissatisfaction among the people, then this dissatisfaction would have had more meaning on 28 June or 30 August. However, we see that these terrorist activities took place not only at that time against the leaders of the revolution, the president and prime minister; but, on other days as well, similar terrorist acts took place. They were all followed by extensive popular support for the revolution. The support was such that the prediction made by the media in connection with the 30 August events, when the country's president and the prime minister were martyred, to the effect that within 24 or 48 hours the Islamic Republic system would be toppled, was rendered incorrect. The people's presence demonstrated that this was not so, that the system is based on popular foundation. Consequently, such analysis comes within the framework of policies which the world media is trying to instill in the minds of public opinion. We have a form of an absolute freedom, and are convinced that the Islamic Republic system cannot remain on its own foundations for even 1 day without the people's consent. One glance at the Friday prayers demonstrates this.

The extensive political awareness existing in our country cannot be compared with any other country. If you take a look at the nature of the Friday prayers sermons you will see that they also include criticism of the government; that there is criticism of certain lack of orders. Meanwhile, there is also praise for the aspirations of the Islamic Revolution. The people lovingly take part in the Friday prayers, which are both political and religious. This phenomenon extends to all our village and towns.

Therefore, your question — the final part — is not a proper one. As I pointed out, behind the problem of plane hijacking there exists an organized terrorism which can be seen as being orchestrated by the superpowers against our revolutionary system. This is quite natural when one system rebels against other. Our country is in this state; it has rebelled against American interests in the Indian Ocean, the Persian Gulf region. We are acting against French interests. We have cut off the hands of all the big powers in our country. We aim to have nations in the region deciding their own fate. It would be surprising if there had not been any conspiracies against our system. We believe that more attention ought to be paid to such motives. In particular, if we note that this organized terrorism is being supported extensively and overtly by such countries as France, then the issue becomes much easier to understand. In answer to your question: If we want to get to the roots, then they can be found mainly in the United States, France, and other superpowers.

Velayati Condemns International Bodies on Hijacking

LD311523 Tehran IRNA in English 1411 GMT 31 Aug 84

[Excerpt] Tabriz, Aug. 31, IRNA — International organisations have so far not taken serious measures to bring the 206 passengers of the hijacked Iranian plane back to Iran, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said today.

"Usually the international organisations show more sensitivity when the interests of the superpowers, rather than other member countries, are in danger," he said.

Speaking to IRNA upon his arrival here, Dr. Velayati said the Islamic Republic had taken every step to try to end the ordeal by sending official notes to the U.N. secretary general, the IATA [International Air Transport Association], and ICAO [International Civil Aviation Organization], requesting them to look into the issue and condemn such acts.

"But so far, unfortunately, no serious steps have been taken by these international organisations."

Summons Foreign Diplomats

LD312208 Tehran IRNA in English 1950 GMT 31 Aug 84

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 31, IRNA — Foreign diplomats in Tehran were summoned to the Foreign Ministry today to convey Iran's request for action against the holding of Iranian passengers and crew of an Iran Air plane hijacked on Tuesday to Iraq.

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati told the diplomats the Iraqi regime's refusal to abide by international law brought under question the credibility of the international organisations.

"We hope...you would ask your respected goverments to take measures to confront this flagrant violation of international law by the Iraqi regime because support for air piracy would not benefit anyone," Velayati said.

During a visit to Tabriz earlier today, he told IRNA that "usually international organisations show more sensitivity when the interests of the superpowers, rather than other member countries, are in danger."

The Iran Air airbus plane with 206 passengers and crew was hijacked minutes after it took off from Shiraz airport for Tehran on Tuesday.

The hijackers, a man and a woman, ordered the pilot to fly to Kuwait. Dr Velayati said the Kuwaiti authorities had been requested through their embassy in Tehran and the Iranian

Embassy in Kuwait to permit the plane's landing because it was short on fuel.

But they refused, he said, and they told the pilot that Baghdad airport was ready to receive them. Two Iraqi fighter planes escorted the plane to an airport in south Iraq, he added.

"The hijackers immediately surrendered while the attitude of the Iraqi authorities towards the hijackers, the pilot and crew, and the passengers was contrary to the commonly recognised international norms of law," he said.

Instead of being arrested, the hijackers held a press conference, Dr Velayati said.

"Maybe this action (by Iraq) would further prove to the world ...that in this imposed war we are entangled with a government which abides by no law."

"In the very first day when the Islamic Republic said the Iraqi regime has aided this air piracy by its jet fighters, one of the Iraqi officials denied this.

"But keeping the passengers as well as the plane with its crew for three days after the surrender of the hijackers is undeniable and unjustified," he added.

Iraq Releases Passengers, Crew

LD040640 Tehran IRNA in English 0638 GMT 4 Sep 84

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 4, IRNA — Passengers and crew of the hijacked Iranian airbus which was forced to land in Iraq will arrive here by a Dutch plane today.

The Islamic Republic's airlines, in its announcement No. 10 issued Monday, said that the Iraqi regime, as was predicted, finally surrendered to the pressure imposed upon it by public opinion to release the passengers and crew of the hijacked plane

Therefore, it added, the Baghdad regime had forced the Iranians on board the commandeered plane to return to Iran on board a plane belonging to the Netherlands.

The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), in a cable assured the Islamic Republic that the organisation would continue its efforts to release the Iranian passengers and crew of the hijacked plane and for the enforcement of international regulations.

Friday Sermon Addresses Israeli UN Membership

LD311429 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Aug 84

[Excerpts] Today the impressive Friday prayers ceremonies were held throughout the country with the participation of millions. Today, as on previous Fridays, Tehran's Muslim, ubiquitous citizens, with their vast presence in Tehran University and the surrounding thoroughfares, held the auspicious Friday prayers under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i.

Referring to the new plots hatched by world arrogance and its supporters in the region aimed at forcing Iran to accept an imposed peace, the chief of the Supreme Defense Council then said:

[Begin recording] They are now sitting in Baghdad and have said that world and international pressure should be brought to bear on the Islamic Republic of Iran to force it to surrender. What pressure? You — reactionary governments subservient to the United States: What instruments of pressure do you have at your disposal that you have not yet employed? The world powers — what pressure could they have used against the system of the Islamic Republic and our people that they have not used? What pressure? Despite the heavy and unbearable pressures that you have brought to bear — this system has borne these pressures and remained.

So now, once again, you can bring to bear any pressure you may like! These pressures brought to bear are the two jaws of a pair of pincers between which a tough stone has been placed. It would twist the jaws of the pincers, but the stone itself shall remain immovable! The Islamic Republic is invulnerable to these world pressures.

Of course, I decalre here and now that should the regional governments wish to act against the Islamic Republic and our interests in the region with slyness and various support — we will not leave any hostile action by any government unanswered! [loud cheers]

Today the great slogan we have raised in the world is that of the expulsion of Israel from the United Nations. The Foreign Ministry has been working comprehensively on this problem for some time now. We say one logical and acceptable word to all the world to all the world nations and governments and the United Nations, and it is this:

If the United Nations has been set up to protect the nations, then why is the wronged Palestinian nation, which is one of the nations, not being protected? What could take the place of the Palestinian nation in the United Nations? You have gathered a spurious collection, an incongrous group, from the countries of the world and brought them together in a usurped land, the homeland of the Palestinians, thanks to the plans of the treacherous Zionists. And now, by applying terrorist and murderous methods, this has become a government! You think that with the passage of time a wrong action becomes a righteous one! Just as the Government of Israel declared by world powers and arrogant hegemonists was a myth in 1948, a wrongful government, a spurious, phony, lying thing — it is the same now!

The Palestinian nation is the owner of the land of Palestine. The administration of the land of Palestine belongs to the Palestinians. All nations — not only the Muslim nations — should join their efforts to this task! I fraternally remind the Arab governments not to confine the problem of Israel within the framework of Arab interests! Expand this circle! The Muslim nations, together with the world's reform-seeking, conscientious, and fair

nations, should all join forces to retrieve the Palestinian people's rights.

Is the Palestinian nation a nation or not? If the Palestinian nation is a nation and the land of Palestine belongs to them and was wrested from their hands and their possession by force, terror, mass genocide, trickery, and political propaganda pressure, then these people should return to their home. The Palestinian nation should find its place in the United Nations, and we should have nothing in the name of the nation of Israel! This thing is living in the name of the nation of Israel, in the usurped land of Palestine — some of them come from Germany, another lot come from Britain, another from France, another from the United States, another from the Middle East, another from Russia — they have gathered there from various places: Let them go home! If they wish to remain in the home of the Palestinians, let them remain — provided the Palestinians allow this — but the administration of that country belongs to the Palestinians themselves!

This is our logical word to the United Nations! This is why over the past 2 years in the United Nations — in the UN General Assembly, which is due to be convened again towards the end of Shahrivar [ending on 22 September] — we have declared — and this year we will also declare — this slogan and called on all nations to support this slogan and demand that their governments consider it as a decisive, unescapable, and unavoidable slogan: Israel should be expelled from the United Nations! [loud cheers] [end recording]

Continuing his second sermon, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Khamene'i, said: We forecast that the nations will accept the slogan of Israel's expulsion from the UN. The same forceast is also being made by the United States and those subservient to it. Therefore, they attempt to prevent this slogan reaching the ears of the deprived peoples of the world. One of the issues that instigated our enemies propaganda and plots in mining the Suez Canal was perhaps the aim of overshadowing the slogan, "Israel Must Be Expelled From the United Nations!"

Continuing his second sermon and referring to the problem of aircraft hijacking, the chief of the Supreme Defense Council emphasized: The governments in the region should not imagine that if aircraft hijacking continue they will be more powerful than others. Saddam initiated the attack and is on the verge of falling. Saddam began the attack on the cities and received a more crushing blow from us. We did not start the war, but we are powerful givers of ripostes.

Referring to Egypt's extensive role in putting forward ignominious peace plans, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Khamene'i then said: The Egyptian regime, which committed the sin of the Camp David plot, will be extremely disturbed by our steps. We do not consider the present Egyptian regime, which was innovator of the tragic Camp David incident, as being part of the community of Muslim and Arab nations. Those who hatched the Camp David plot are traitors to the Islamic nation and Islamic aspirations. The United States attempts to bring the present boss of the Egyptian regime out of isolation, but we believe that the Muslim nations should allow this task to be carried out. The Egyptian regime specializes in working out ignominious peace plans. We do not accept the Egyptian regime and the stifling country of Egypt. These people have no right to speak about the problems of Muslims! We support nations and governments that do not collude with global arrogance. We are for cutting the hand of the world powers from the Islamic and regional countries and hope that the Muslim nations of the world will attain their goals.

Khomeyni to Council of Guardians on Clergy Role

LD021414 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Sep 84

[Excerpts] Juristconsults and religious lawyers of the Council of Guardians were received this morning by Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

During this meeting, Aytollah Lotfollah Safi, secretary of the Council of Guardians, presented the imam of the nation with a detailed report on the performance of the Council of Guardians. Later, the imam of the nation addressed the audience with some important remarks and said: [announcer-read] Another story is the issue of certain Friday imams and some of the country's ulema [clergy] who with their inappropriate interference in the affairs of the government cause a situation which could result in people dissociating themselves from the clergy. If people begin to dissociate themselves from the clergy, this will result in the defeat of clergy, the outcome of which is the defeat of the Islamic Republic. I have repeatedly stated that the clergy must guide rather than rule. We must not act in such a manner and let people think that these people [clergy], as experience shows, cannot tackle any problem. Religious dictatorship is an accusation that should be taken seriously. Radios are continuously repeating [this accusation] and they accuse us of arbitrary rule.

The clergy ought not to act in such manner to give the enemy any excuse. Our interference must be based on the Islamic principle of "directing to do what is lawful and enjoying not to commit what is unlawful." Ordering the standard [organization] to do something and take such and such a path is first of all a step toward weakening the government. In addition, this will result in people hating the clergy. You have to fully bear in mind these consequences. Let us talk about your foundation [Council of Guardians]. I am personally 100 percent behind the entity of the Council of Guardians, and I believe that this entity must remain a powerful and permanent entity. But safeguarding the council to some extent is in your own hands. Your approach must be somehow that even in the future no harm can be inflicted on the council. You ought not to think of today only and ignore the future. Devils tend to creep. America's contingency is for the next 50 years.

You must think in a way that this council will remain safe forever. Your behavior must be such so that the conclusion cannot be drawn that you are standing against the Majlis. The circumstances in which you go your own way and the Majlis goes its own way, or you go your own way and the government goes its own way, are harmful. You should stand firm on the principles of Islam, yet you should behave so that a conclusion is not drawn that you are interfering in every issue. Your remarks must make everyone believe that you are acting within your legal boundaries. Neither one step more, nor one step less. You should stop at the

right legal junction. Neither one word less, nor one word more.

Sometimes you may note that the interests of Islam justify that you should perform your tasks through the secondary laws. Well, carry on. Sometimes, you may note that the prime minister must interfere in an issue, and his lack of interference may be harmful to Islam. Let him act. Necessity may justify that the prime minister does something that no one else is capable of doing. You must try to avoid emergence of the view that you wish to interfere in everything, even in administrative affairs. Of course, you are well aware of your tasks and you act within those tasks, but I only wish to remind you. You should bear in mind that if discussions are turned into arguments and you stand against each other, this will weaken and will ultimately eliminate the Council of Guardians. The reason why ulema members of the Council of Guardians removed other members was because they gradually came to believe that [those ulema] were against them. The policy by which those ulema members of the Council of Guardians were removed was gradual and wrong. Therefore, we all have to be alert. The other issue is behavior of the revolutionary entities with people.

Another issue is the behavior of the revolutionary entities with the people. Our behavior should make the people understand that Islam has come to organize their lives in this world and prepare them for the next. Then the nation feels in peace. The phrase which says: Islam [word indistinct] from previous times [words indistinct] is a political issue. Islam realized that by the harsh treatment of the newly converted Muslims, no one would be attracted to Islam. Therefore, it has said that their previous deeds should be forgiven.

I read somewhere that a guild komiteh has demanded punishment of all those shopkeepers who overcharged many years before the revolution. This is contrary to Islam and the will of God. We should not be so hard, and we should think of the people. Our people have worked very hard. The ordinary people are different from the upper class strata living in comfort. Our ordinary people implemented Islam, and all the burden of the [Islamic] rule is on their shoulders. Thus, we should be thinking about the people much more, and we should not treat them so harshly to force them to leave the arena. Of course, you should not allow the corrupt individuals to roam around freely. But people should not be bothered for such deeds as, for example: So and so was seen in a photograph with a personality of the former era, or his name was read in such and such publication, or he went to welcome a certain individual. In the Koran, matters were dealt with gradually. We are over 40 million people. If we remain united, neither the Soviet Union nor the United States will be able to do anything. That is for certain. Therefore, we must keep the people. The Majlis, the government, the Council of Guardians, and the rest, you must all join hands in order to safeguard Islam and this republic. May God's peace and mercy be upon you all.

AFP: Khark Island Reportedly Not Functioning

NC010735 Paris AFP in English 0733 GMT 1 Sep 84

[Text] Manama, Sep 1 (AFP) — The largest Iranian oil terminal, Khark Island in the Gulf, appears to have [been] affected by technical difficulties, Kuwaiti maritime sources said today.

One of the sources, in a telephone interview from Bahrain, said: "Something happened at Khark Thursday or Friday." The source could not, however, confirm a report in the *GULF DAILY NEWS*, a Bahraini newspaper, that the terminal had been closed for 10 days for repairs.

The sources said that as far as they knew, Khark has continued to operate, at least until yesterday.

Khark, the terminal through which most of Iran's oil exports pass, has been threatened several times by Iraq. Output has also severely fluctuated in the face of repeated attacks on shipping in the Gulf.

Earlier this summer, Iraq threatened to destroy the terminal if Iran carried out reported plans for a major offensive on the southern front, in a continuation of the four-year war.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Issues Communiques

No 1,836

LD311819 Tehran IRNA in English 1722 GMT 31 Aug 84

[Text] Tehran, Aug 31, IRNA — The Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces announced in its 1,836th communique Friday that ten Iraqi light and heavy weaponry positions and one loader were demolished in Arvand River fronts and about 50 enemy troops were killed or wounded in southern fronts during the preceding 24 hours.

Meanwhile, the Gendarmerie forces smashed four Iraqi positions and observation posts in Bayat region killing their crew. The Iraqi motorised and infantry movements were also checked on logistic axes of Arvand River fronts.

In Abadan, three civilians were wounded and three shops and four housing units were damaged by the Iraqi long range fire upon the city Thursday.

In the western fronts, an active unit of the enemy came under the fire of Islamic combatants in Piranshah battle scene and its logistic activities and movements were halted.

In Chuman Mostafa region, the movements of Iraqi motorised units were checked.

In other northwestern fronts, the Iraqi fire was silenced by the fire of Islamic combatants upon the enemy's positions and fortifications and one loader and several group and individual bunkers were destroyed and some Iraqi troops were killed.

The Islamic combatants prevented the infiltration movements of an Iraqi patrol unit in Sumar region at 23:10 hours local time (GMT 20:00) on Wednesday and the unit was forced to retreat sustaining casualties and losses. During the past day, Nowsud in the western front was the site of most intense exchange of fire, concluded the Joint Staff Command communique.

No 1,837

LD011847 Tehran IRNA in English 1747 GMT 1 Sep 84

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 1, IRNA — Three light and heavy Iraqi weaponry positions, two observation posts, and two mortar launching pads were demolished and at least 10 enemy troops were killed or wounded in the western front of Bakhtaran and Ilam during the past 24 hours.

Announcing this, the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces further said in its Communique No 1,837 that sporadic exchange of fire continued in the western front of Hajj 'Umran, Marivan and Panjwin during this period and the Islamic combatants checked Iraqi movements and activities by heavy artillery fire in these fronts. Parts of the defensive positions of the enemy were set ablaze and some Iraqi personnel were killed or wounded. Mehran region was the scene of most intense fire exchanges in the western fronts.

In the southern fronts, the Islamic combatants checked the transporation activities of the enemy along Al-Faw-Basra axis and destroyed five group and individual bunkers and observation posts and killed more than 10 enemy troops.

In west of Arvand River and Majnun Islands, the Islamic combatants zeroed in on the enemy positions using artillery and mortar fire and inflicted considerable material losses and casualties upon the Iraqi troops.

In Abadan, five houses and part of a mosque were damaged by the Iraqi long-range fire upon the city Friday. Also fire broke out in one part of the city, concluded the Joint Staff Command communique.

No 1,838

LD021819 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Sep 84

[Text] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran in its 1,838th communique has announced:

During the last 24 hours fortifications, positions, personnel and armored equipment of the aggressive enemy all along the war fronts came under heavy fire from the Islamic combatants. In the operational region of the north-west an ammunition depot, two observation posts and five weapon emplacements were destroyed, and the enemy's heavy weapons were silenced. In the western operational front our forces fired on enemy positions, destroying a number of weapon emplacements and observation posts and setting fire to an ammunition depot and one personnel carrier belonging to the enemy. In the southern operational region sporadic exchanges of fire continued all along the defense line yesterday. Our combatants fired on enemy units relieving other units and enemy supply vehicles, inflicting considerable damage and casualties on the aggressors. In the area west of the Arvund Rud our forces' fire destroyed eight foxholes and trenches of the enemy, and damaged two of their communication channels.

The war information headquarters in a statement invited all foreign correspondents staying in Tehran to insepct the way more than 150 young Iraqi POW's are living in POW camps and enjoying the comfort, educational, and recreational facilities of the camp. According to this statement, foreign correspondent can refer to the Foreign Press Office of the Islamic Guidance Ministry for more information.

No 1,839

LD031759 Tehran IRNA in English 1714 GMT 3 Sep 84

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 3, IRNA — The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces announced in its 1,839th communique Monday that more than six Iraqi bunkers, two observation posts, and one vehicle were demolished and at least three enemy troops were killed or wounded in the western fronts during the preceding 24 hours.

The communique further said that the Islamic combatants inflicted considerable casualties and damages upon the enemy forces in Hajj 'Umran, Marivan and Panjwin fronts, in the northwest of the country, during the said period by targetting the Iraqi positions, units and supply roads. The Iraqi movements were thwarted and their heavy fire silenced in these fronts.

An Iraqi patrol group was zeroed in on in the Meymak front of Ilam Province by the Islamic combatants at 21:00 hours local time (GMT 17:30) on Saturday and was forced to retreat.

In the southern fronts, exchange of fire was more intense in Shalamcheh region and Majnun Islands area.

In Abadan region, the activities of enemy engineering unit were halted and two engineering vehicles were destroyed.

The Gendarmerie forces stationed in Arvand River fronts also smashed four weaponry positions and observation posts as well as a loader killing their crews.

An Iraqi patrol group in Musian region of Ilam Province was forced to retreat before carrying [out] any operations while sustaining casualties.

(?18) artillery shells hit and damaged 8 houses, one school and the city hospital in Abadan Sunday, concluded the Joint Staff Command communique.

Pilgrims in Mecca Hold 'Great Demonstration'

LD011612 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Sep 84

[Text] Holy Mecca today witnessed a great demonstration and procession in which more than 200,000 pilgrims to the house of God participated.

Reports received from correspondents of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran [Iranian radio and television] from Mecca indicate that today, at a time when the city of Mecca, the city of the Kaaba and the city of [word indistinct] Islam, is playing host to approximately one million pilgrims to the Holy Kaaba from Islamic countries and Muslims from throughout the world, as well as one million Saudi pilgrims, a great demonstra-

tion and procession was held in Mecca by the pilgrims devoted to rejecting idolaters.

The procession started from the imam's mission place with recitations from the Koran and slogans in Arabic and Farsi rejecting idolaters, oppressors, infidels and satanic powers and readings of some phrases from Imam Khomeyni's message [of 29 August on the occasion of Id al-Adha] addressed to pilgrims. Later Mr Musavi Kho'iniha, the imam representative, delivered some remarks. The ceremony then continued with two representatives from revolutionary Muslims of Lebanon and Muslim Afghan people, explaining to the pilgrims current issue in Lebanon and Afghanistan. At the conclusion, participants in the gathering whose number was estimated more than 200,000 proceeded in discipline towards the house of God for their mid-day prayers.

According to our correspondent, participants at the demonstration rejecting idolaters which was held in Mecca, along with pilgrims to God's house, Muslim revolutionary groups from Iraq and Lebanon, Palestinians, and Afghans were also present.

Saudi Police Surround Libyan Pilgrims' Compounds

LD041528 Tehran IRNA in English 1517 GMT 4 Sep 84

[Text] Mecca, Sept. 4, IRNA — Saudi security forces surrounded the residences of Libyan pilgrims here Sunday night. No reason was given for the action.

Witnesses said Saudi police cars with machine guns mounted on top and Army vehicles were stationed around the compounds, located west of Kaaba.

Observers have questioned the Saudi move which has no apparent motive behind it. No unusual behaviour has been observed from the Libyan pilgrims.

IRNA Reports Soviet Attacks on Afghan Town

LD311809 Tehran IRNA in English 1713 GMT 31 Aug 84

[Text] Mashhad, Aug. 31 IRNA — Many people were killed and wounded when Soviet war planes bombarded the town of Anar Darreh in western Afghanistan last Tuesday, reports reaching here said.

The repeated bombing of the town destroyed an indeterminate number of houses and shops. Also two mosques and a theological school were destroyed.

Meanwhile, efforts by the Muslim mujahidin to move the wounded to medical centers have failed because the Soviet-backed Afghan regime is controlling the roads in the region.

Other reports indicate that the Soviets bombarded the town again on Thursday, in a bid to drive Muslim revolutionaries from the area.

Anar Darreh is located in the Farah Province on the Iran-Afghan border.